

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HONG K 02481 131144 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 RSR-01 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 NIC-01 SSO-00 SCSE-00

/095 W

----- 038882

R 131035 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6277

UNCLAS HONG KONG 2481

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS CH (DOWNEY)

SUBJECT: NCNA ACCOUNT OF RELEASE OF DOWNEY

REF: HONG KONG 2390

1. NCNA ( MARCH 12) REPORTED THE RELEASE OF DOWNEY AND GAVE BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HIS CASE, NOTING THAT HE WAS ORIGINALLY SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN 1954 AND THAT THIS WAS THEN CHANGED TO A FIVE- YEAR IMPRISONMENT SENTENCE IN DECEMBER 1971. NCNA CONTINUED THAT " CHINA' S ORGANS OF DICTATORSHIP," CONSIDERING " THAT DOWNEY CONFESSED HIS CRIME AND HIS BEHAVIOR WAS NOT BAD WHILE SERVING HIS TERM, DECIDED TO GRANT HIM LENIENCY AND TO RELEASE HIM IMMEDIATELY."
2. THE WORDING OF THE NCNA REPORT ON DOWNEY WAS ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH  
  
THAT USED BY NCNA TO ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF FECTEAU AND HARBERT IN DECEMBER 1971.  
OSBORN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973HONGK02481  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730326/aaaahnlu.tel  
**Line Count:** 56  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 HONG KONG 2390  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971120  
**Subject:** NCNA ACCOUNT OF RELEASE OF DOWNEY  
**TAGS:** MOPS, CH, (DOWNEY)  
**To:** EA  
**SECSTATE WASHDC**  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005